

229998

Ms. Cynthia T. Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20423

EX Parte 705

Dear Ms. Brown:

I am writing to urge the Surface Transportation Board to make a finding that there is a profound lack of rail-to-rail competition in the national rail system. The STB should change its policies to enable increased rail-to-rail competition.

Currently, anti-competitive practices within the railroad industry have driven costs up on my monthly electric bill. That's not right and the STB can help fix. I feel the people of this state are willing to pay a fair price for a fair product, but we shouldn't be taken advantage of because of lack of competition. Please help rectify this problem.

Rural-based business and agriculture rely on affordable electricity. Increased rail competition will help maintain affordable electric rates in rural America and will improve economic opportunities for rural communities like mine.

Increased rail competition will also increase the revenues of American agriculture by improving the ability of producers and manufacturers to ship their products affordably, thus improving exports, creating jobs and improving the standard of living in rural communities.

The Surface Transportation Board has an opportunity to make a positive difference and help improve our economy. The comments that the STB has received include numerous examples of the lack of adequate competition in the railroad industry. I hope the STB will find that there is inadequate competition in the railroad industry and will then revise their policies to enhance rail-to-rail competition in order to help preserve affordable electricity and good jobs throughout America.

Thank you,  
Barry DeKay  
Niobrara Valley EMC

Barry DeKay  
51228 896 Rd  
Niobrara, NE 68760  
bdekay@threeriver.net  
Niobrara Valley EMC

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

JUN 13 2011

Part of  
Public Record